

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2818. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of epilepsy center of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4289. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Euripides Rubio Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 5687. An act to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency and accountability of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6307. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to assist children in foster care in developing or maintaining connections to family, community, support, health care, and school, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6312. An act to advance credit union efforts to promote economic growth, modify credit union regulatory standards and reduce burdens, to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes.

At 6:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3180. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4289. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Euripides Rubio Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5687. An act to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency and accountability of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6307. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to as-

sist children in foster care in developing or maintaining connections to family, community, support, health care, and school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 6312. An act to advance credit union efforts to promote economic growth, modify credit union regulatory standards and reduce burdens, to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3186. A bill to provide funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

H.R. 6331. An act to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to extend expiring provisions under the Medicare Program, to improve beneficiary access to preventive and mental health services, to enhance low-income benefit programs, and to maintain access to care in rural areas, including pharmacy access, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2818. To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of epilepsy centers of excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-401. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Tehachapi, California, expressing its support for the original and historic view of the Second Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-402. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to appropriate the United States Army Corps of Engineers the total amount of funds collected from the Harbor Maintenance Tax; to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

Whereas, Louisiana, more than most other states, is keenly aware of the importance of maintaining waterway channels clear for navigation with several major rivers, including the Mississippi River, flowing through the state and is also keenly aware that dredging navigation channels and letting the dredge material merely flow out to the Gulf of Mexico is, in essence, letting Louisiana merely flow out to the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, if the total amount of funds collected from the Harbor Maintenance Tax is appropriated to the Corps of Engineers, those funds could be used to help fund the dredging necessary to maintain the navigation channels open for commerce; and

Whereas, an ancillary use of dredging activity that has become essential to the preservation of Louisiana's coastline is beneficial use of dredge material whereby the material dredged from waterways is then taken and "planted" where it can be used to preserve and grow land in the coastal areas where Louisiana is losing land at an alarming rate; and

Whereas, coastal Louisiana was formed by the depositional processes of the Mississippi River over the past seven thousand five hundred years; and

Whereas, the thick fluvial deposits that comprise the Mississippi River Delta are naturally prone to compaction under their own weight, but if sediment supplies are sufficient, the delta can build and maintain its surfaces as sea level rises; and

Whereas, the land building processes of the Mississippi River have been halted in South Louisiana by a combination of levees which prevent seasonal overbank flooding and sediment deposition, dredged waterways which channel freshwater and sediment to the Gulf of Mexico, and upstream dam construction which prevent sediment from naturally reaching the Louisiana coast; and

Whereas, over fifteen hundred square miles of Louisiana's coastal wetlands and barrier islands have been lost to open water since the early 1930s, and scientists project that another five hundred square miles will be lost by 2050, if current resource management practices continue; and

Whereas, more than one hundred twenty million tons of river sediment that could be used to sustain the Mississippi Delta will be lost to the Gulf of Mexico each year if nothing is done to restore the natural hydrology of the Mississippi River; and

Whereas, prevention of wetland loss in the Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, which comprises most of the southeastern Louisiana coastal zone, is dependent upon restoring flows of fresh water and sediment to the delta; and

Whereas, an international team of scientists convened for the express purpose of advising the state of Louisiana about its coastal land loss problem in 2006 concluded that, "The most fundamental and essential action needed to achieve a sustainable coast is to reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the amount of Mississippi River sediment and freshwater flowing directly into the deep waters of the Gulf. These valuable resources, which originally built coastal Louisiana, can only benefit the coast if they are redirected to inshore and nearshore waters. This would occur naturally if the river were not artificially maintained for navigation along its present course into deep water"; and

Whereas, fully appropriating to the Corps of Engineers the revenue received from the Harbor Maintenance Tax could provide the funds essential to both dredge rivers for navigation purposes as intended by the imposition of the tax and, to go a step further, as authorized by the tax, to use that dredge material for beneficial uses in restoring and preserving coastal Louisiana. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to appropriate to the United States Army Corps of Engineers the total amount of funds collected from the Harbor Maintenance Tax so that those funds can be used for dredging navigation channels and, where possible, the beneficial use of dredged material to protect, restore, and conserve wetlands along the coast of Louisiana. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-403. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina urging Congress to appoint an independent counsel to investigate unresolved matters pertaining to U.S. personnel unaccounted for from this Nation's wars and